

**Amendments to the Claims:**

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Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method of controlling a wire winder, said method including:  
as a tower travels around a tank, generating a square wave from ~~the a~~ wheel drive;  
feeding said square wave to a counter and counting a number of said square waves;  
comparing the number of counts with a number selected by an operator for a spacing location;  
powering a proportional hydraulic valve, and thereby pressurizing fluid into an elevator hydraulic motor;  
thereby rotating the motor until the spacing counter has counted the pre-selected number; and  
shutting the hydraulic flow.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square waves generated from the wheels and elevator motor are from optical encoders and fed to a counter.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square waves generated from the wheels and elevator motor are from segmental commutator rings and fed to a counter.

8. (original) A method of according to Claim 5 in which a strip chart recorder records information from various transducers as the tower travels.

9. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 8 in which ~~the~~ paper in the strip chart recorder is fed in direct relation to the movement of the tower so that the location of events recorded on the paper by the strip chart recorder can be related to the events.

10. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 8 in which ~~the a~~ controller automatically turns on the recorder on and selects an appropriate paper speed for paper used in the recorder.

11. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square wave provides feedback for low cost proportional valves.

Application No.: 09/965,646  
Response to Office Action of 07/31/2003  
Attorney Docket: DYKIN-014A

Claims 12-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A wire winder system, including:

a tower for traveling around a tank,

a square wave generator for generation square waves as a function of motion of a wheel drive;

a counter for counting a number of said square waves;

means for comparing the number of counts with a number selected by an operator for a spacing location;

a proportional hydraulic valve, actuated in response to said comparing means,

an elevator hydraulic motor [;] actuated by pressurizing fluid from said proportional valve to thereby rotate the motor until the spacing counter has counted the pre-selected number and shut the hydraulic flow.

~~motor are from segmental commutator rings and fed to a counter.~~

22. (new) A winder for tensioning a strand of material being wrapped around a tank in order to pre-stress the tank, the winder being connected to a tower traveling around the tank, the winder comprising:

a first rotating gripper engaging the strand of material at a first, constant radius;

a second rotating gripper downstream of the first gripper and engaging the strand of material, the second gripper using a differential winder to apply a tension to the strand which leaves the second gripper;

a brake between the first and second gripper;

a brake on the first gripper to vary the rotation of the first gripper and vary the tension in the strand of material between the first and second grippers.

23. (new) The winder of Claim 22, wherein ~~the brake~~ is a stationary brake.

24. (new) The winder of Claim 22, wherein ~~the brake~~ is a liquid cooled brake.

25. (new) The winder of Claim 22, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.

26. (new) The winder of Claim 23, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.

27. (new) The winder of Claim 24, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.

28. (new) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the first gripper receives the strand directly from the <sup>NA</sup> spool.)

29. (new) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the second gripper comprises a sprocket with two different pitch circumferences corresponding to the second and third radius.)

30. (new) A method for achieving a desired tension in a strand of material being wrapped around tanks in order to pre-stress those tanks, the method comprising:  
receiving the strand of the material in a first rotating gripper;  
receiving the strand from the first gripper in a second rotating gripper, the rotation of the first and second grippers creating a first tension in the strand between the first and second grippers;  
differentially stressing the strand to provide a second, predetermined amount of tension in the strand before the strand is wrapped around the tank;  
varying the tension in the <sup>NA</sup> strand by varying a braking force applied by a brake on the first rotating gripper, so that the combination of the first tension and the second tension achieve the desired tension.

31. (new) The winder of Claim 30, wherein the second tension is achieved by passing the strand over two rotating sprockets of different circumference.

32. (new) The winder of Claim 30, further comprising providing the braking by using a stationary brake.

33. (new) The winder of Claim 30, further comprising providing the braking by using a liquid cooled brake.